

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Forrest L. Pierson, Jr.

Serial No.: Not Assigned

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Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: Method and System for Efficiently Passing the Silence or Unused Status of a  
DSO Channel Through a DsO Switch Matrix and a Data Switch

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-noted application, please amend the application as follows.

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, line 5, please insert the following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/464,786 filed December 17, 1999, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENTLY PASSING THE SILENCE OR UNUSED STATUS OF A DSO CHANNEL THROUGH A DSO SWITCH MATRIX AND A DATA SWITCH", which has a common assignee and inventorship to the present application, and the above noted patent application, is incorporated by reference in its entirety.--.